Castes included in the list of SC/ST

†678. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of castes included in the list of the Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration to include some more castes from various states in the list of the Scheduled Castes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The information pertaining to number of castes included in the list fo Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes is available in the Manual of Election law published by the Ministry of Law and Justice.

(b) and (c) 451 proposals for modifications in the lists of Scheduled Castes have been so far received from various States/Union Territories. Out of these proposals 323 proposals have been referred back to State Governments and Union Territory Administra'io..s to furnish ethnographic details. Further, 46 proposals have been referred to the Registrar General of India and 80 proposals to the National Commission for Scheduled Castes for their comments. On other 2 proposals, the comments of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes have been received. In regard to obtaining requisite information and comments on the proposals that have been referred to the State Governments/Unions Territory Administrations, the Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes as well as effecting modifications in the list of Scheduled Castes, no time frame can be indicated, as it requires consultation with various agencies.

Acquisition of land from tribal people

679. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would stop forever the compulsory acquisition of lands from the tribal people in the name of construction of Dams;

(b) whether any policy would be in place to stop scattering of tribal population after displacements from their ancestral land; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, by when it is going to emerge?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) Implementation of developmental projects including construction of Dams often require compulsory acquisition of land. However, the Ministry of Rural Development has brought out a National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation for Project Affected Families, which includes displaced tribals also. The policy provides for specific guidelines to stop scattering of Project Affected Families (PAFs); and further that the PAFs need to be settled preferably in group or groups and such sites should form a part of existing gram panchayat as far as possible. The policy also provides special package for the tribals enabling them to retain their enthnic, linguistic and cultural identity.

Conditions of Savar community of ST

680. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the deplorable living conditions of the 'Savar' community of Scheduled Tribes inhabiting Jharkhand, West Bengal and Orissa;

(b) if so, whether any special schemes focused on welfare and upliftment of this category of tribals have been put into operation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH) : (a) The Ministry have identified 75 tribal communities, including "Savar" community, whose socio-economic condition is far below the other tribal communities and classified them as "Primitive Tribal Groups" (PTGs) for more focused attention towards their development.

(b) and (c) The Ministry have an exclusive scheme for the Development of Primitive Tribal Groups, which includes "Savar" community. The Central Sector scheme named as "Development of primitive Tribal Groups" is in operation since 1998-99. It is a flexible scheme which permits all activities for their development. The Ministry have released grant in aid to the State Govts. as well as the Non-Governmental organizations for taking up